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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
90/006,679	06/24/2003	5631946		5440

803 7590 08/22/2006

STURM & FIX LLP
206 SIXTH AVENUE
SUITE 1213
DES MOINES, IA 50309-4076

EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
90/006,492	12/26/2002	5631946		9466

803 7590 08/22/2006

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THIRD PARTY REQUESTER'S CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

8/22/06

NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP

1300 EYE STREET

400 EAST TOWER

WASHINGTON, DC 2005

EX PARTE REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO 90/006492

PATENT NO. 5,631,946

ART UNI 3992

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the above identified ex parte reexamination proceeding (37 CFR 1.550(f)).

Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 CFR 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submission on behalf of the ex parte reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered (37 CFR 1.550(g)).

Office Action in Ex Parte ReexaminationControl No.
90/006,492 90/006,679Patent Under Reexamination
5631946Examiner
Charles R. CraverArt Unit
3992

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

- a ☒ Responsive to the communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006 5/22/06 b ☒ This action is made FINAL.
 c ☐ A statement under 37 CFR 1.530 has not been received from the patent owner.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 2 month(s) from the mailing date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in termination of the proceeding and issuance of an *ex parte* reexamination certificate in accordance with this action. 37 CFR 1.550(d). **EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).** If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-474. |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449. | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> _____. |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- 1a. ☒ Claims 1-185 and 288-333 are subject to reexamination.
- 1b. ☐ Claims _____ are not subject to reexamination.
2. ☐ Claims _____ have been canceled in the present reexamination proceeding.
3. ☐ Claims _____ are patentable and/or confirmed.
4. ☒ Claims 1-185 and 288-333 are rejected.
5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.
6. ☒ The drawings, filed on 5-16-1995 are acceptable.
7. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ has been (7a) ☐ approved (7b) ☐ disapproved.
8. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the certified copies have
 1 ☐ been received.
 2 ☐ not been received.
 3 ☐ been filed in Application No. _____.
 4 ☐ been filed in reexamination Control No. _____.
 5 ☐ been received by the International Bureau in PCT application No. _____.
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
9. ☐ Since the proceeding appears to be in condition for issuance of an *ex parte* reexamination certificate except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte* Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
10. ☐ Other: _____

cc: Requester (if third party requester)



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EX PARTE REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO. 90/006,492
90/006,679

PATENT NO. 5631946

ART UNIT 3992

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Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 CFR 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submission on behalf of the *ex parte* reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered (37 CFR 1.550(g)).